

February 23, 2023

Members of the Education Appropriations Subcommittee  
State Capitol Hartford, CT 06106

**RE: Proposed Budget on Education**

**[Schools who perform well get more money?]**

Hi, My name is Tyanne Mclean. I'm a freshman at Bridge Academy, a charter School in Bridgeport. I have been going to charter schools since Elementary. I am well aware of the lack of funding in charter schools. I remember certain things being taken away from us. In 4th grade, we used to have field days. We would throw water balloons at each other, play games, and just have fun. We celebrated almost being done with elementary school, and we celebrated like kids. My sister is a year younger than me. She did not get the ability to do this. She only got more recess time. Her grade was several understaffed. There were simply not enough teachers to monitor the activity.

My sister graduated 4th grade in 2018. Teacher shortage was a problem in 2018, and it still is today in 2023. This shortage is so evident it's scary. Florida, is letting veterans teach their students even if they don't have a degree. I hopefully don't have to tell you why this is a bad idea. I don't want to be in a situation similar to Florida.

Lack of funding is becoming increasingly obvious as time passes by. In my middle school (a charter school) the textbooks were so outdated we couldn't use them. I went there for 4 years, and we have never used them, and my god cousins who went there, also never used a textbook there for the same reason. According to tophat, Textbooks should be changed out every 3 years. In a 10 year cycle, the textbooks were never changed. CT insider states, "In New Haven, the school district is currently short about 100 classroom teachers, more than 5 percent of the district's total. In Hartford, the district has about 200 vacancies, about 80 of which are classroom teachers. In Meriden, two families recently sued administrators of H.C. Wilcox Technical High School, claiming their children had no full-time geometry teacher for two months, hindering their progress in the subject." This was posted in November 2022.

Even though my charter schools lacked funding, they are still doing better than Danbury Charter and Norwalk Excellence. Others mentioned that they are being ignored, and resources are available to help them. Education is important and could make or break someone's future. It's possible to help us out. Please, for the sake of my generation and future generations, help us.

Respectfully submitted,

Tyanne Mclean